GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:643
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2003
SAFEGUARDING WOMEN AND CHILDREN AGAINST HIV
V. VETRISELVAN

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any programme to safeguard women against HIV transmission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are also contemplating to expand the prevention of mother to child HIV transmission programme upto district level in all the high HIV prevalent States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the kind of incentives being provided under the programme, if any?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a)to(e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 643 FOR 07.5.2003

In order to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS, Government has launched a comprehensive National AIDS Contro Programme, currently under implementation throughout the country as a centrally sponsored scheme. Some of the programme activities focusing specifically to safe-guard women against HIV transmission are:(i) Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT);(ii) Targeted Intervention for female sex workers and migrant women among others; (iii) Family Health Awareness Campaigns (FHAC) to sensitize thetarget population including women, in the age group 15-49 years about adopting healthy life styles, avoiding high risk behaviour and managing care and treatment of Reproductive Health(RH); (iv) Integrated Child Development Scheme in collaboration with Department of Women and Child Development to raise awareness among adolescent girls regarding HIV/AIDS; and (v) School AIDS Education and University Talk AIDS Education Programmes for adolescent girls and young women.

In view of the emerging threat of transmission of HIV infection from HIV infected pregnant mother to her baby, Government of India has launched the Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT) Programme in the country.The feasibility study on prevention of mother to child transmission was initiated in March, 2000, in 11 institutions located in five HIV high prevalence States namely: Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Manipur. In the first phase of the study, short course regimen of Zidovudine (AZT) was administered to pregnant women who attended antenatal clinics from 36 weeks of gestation and during labour at the above institutions. In the second phase (October, 2001 to September, 2002) of the feasibility study at these institutions, single dose nevirapine to both HIV infected mother and baby pair was administered for prevention of mother to child transmission.This drug has an additional advantage over AZT as it is administered in single dose, besides being cost effective as compared to short course regimen of Zidovudine (AZT).

Encouraged with the results of the feasibility studies, Government has decided to scale up PPTCT programme in the entire country in a phased manner. In the first phase of the programme, medical colleges and district hospitals of the six high prevalence States namely Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Manipur and Nagaland are being covered.Currently, 74 Medical Colleges and 15 District Hospitals in these States are providing PPTCT servicesIn the second phase of the programme, Medical Colleges of other States will be covered.